**Immigration Flow Chart: Visas, Green Cards and Citizenship**

Obtain permanent residence through your employer filing for your Green Card on your behalf.

Obtain permanent residence by filing independently for your Green Card. (Paperwork, $985)

**STEP #1**

**VISA**

**No guarantee of Constitutional rights.**

**May be deported for committing a crime.**

A person may enter the country by applying for a **visa:**

* **Work Visa:** may take a job in the United States for a limited amount of time
* **Student Visa:** may study at an American school for a limited amount of time
* **Immigrant Visa:** may begin the immigration process
* **Visitor’s Visa:** may take a trip to the United States for a limited amount of time

**If all of these steps are complete, the person is interviewed, given a citizenship test, given medical tests, and must take an oath of loyalty to the United States.**

If you are a person over 18 years old, you are married and living with a U.S. citizen and have been married and living with them for the past 3 years and your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the past 3 years, you must:

* Prove that you are a permanent resident for 3 years
* Not leave the United States for trips longer than 6 months in those 3 years

**STEP #2**

**GREEN CARD**

**Will have most Constitutional rights, but no voting rights.**

**May be deported for committing a crime.**

**STEP #3**

**CITIZENSHIP**

**Citizens have all Constitutional and voting rights.**

**Citizens cannot be deported for committing crimes.**

If you have been in the armed services, you must have your Green Card on the day of the interview.

If you are a person over 18 years old with no special circumstances, you must:

* Prove that you are a permanent resident for 5 years
* Not leave the United States for trips longer than 6 months in those 5 years

**PERMANENT RESIDENT**